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REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The collections under care of the Curators have been kept in the excellent state of preservation reported last year, while much has been accomplished toward their better display, arrangement and cataloguing. During the year two large plate-glass cases have been provided, one for large mammals and one for the new ornithological floor which it is proposed to open during the coming year. There have also been erected two handsome wall cases in the Archæological department for the reception of the Lamborn Collection of Mexican Antiquities, and two others for a series of human crania.

For storage purposes a room in the basement has been fitted up with fifty-two closet cases in which geological study collections will be arranged. The specimens will thus be more accessible; and the cases on the upper floor now occupied by them will be available for more perishable material. Ten moth-proof tin cases for the accommodation of the rapidly increasing study collection of birds were also secured.

In addition to these improvements, the entire library hall has been painted during the summer. Necessary improvements have also been made to the roofs and the heating plant, and sunshades provided for several windows as a protection to the specimens.

The principal rearrangement in the Museum during the year has been on the floor devoted to mammals. The new case provided for the large mounted specimens rendered the old cases available for osteological material, much of which had previously been without protection. This not only insures the better preservation of the specimens, but facilitates their systematic arrangement. With the same object all the skeletons of Cetacea have now been placed together at the east end of the floor protected by a railing, and some of them articulated and remounted. The entire series of mammals exhibited in the new cases has also been relabeled with buff cardboard, which will not discolor on exposure to the light, while nearly all of the study series of mammalian skeletons has been labeled with permanent tags.

In addition to the above work, the assistant to the Curators has devoted a large part of the year to the arrangement of the alcoholic Batrachians and Reptiles. The entire series of some

thirty-five hundred jars has been cleansed and systematically arranged in accordance with the British Museum Catalogue, and many specimens misplaced when the collection was transferred have now been located and properly classified. The entire Cope collection of Ophidia and Tailed Batrachia, excepting some of the largest specimens, was catalogued; many unnamed specimens were identified and systematically arranged. The shelves have been numbered and labeled, so that any specimen can be readily found.

The alcoholic mammals were at the same time systematically examined and relabeled by Mr. J. A. G. Rehn, Jessup Fund student, and the additions from the collections of the late Prof. Edward D. Cope and Dr. Harrison Allen properly arranged. Mr. Henry W. Fowler has completed the rearrangement of the alcoholic fishes.

In the Botanical department, the services of Mr. Stewardson Brown were secured in the spring as an assistant to the Curators and the work of mounting the herbarium has been pushed rapidly toward completion. Much work has been done in this department by Vice-President, Thomas Meehan.

Mr. Clarence B. Moore has added many valuable specimens to his collection in the department of Archæology, which is now one of the most valuable in our museum, and Mr. Theodore D. Rand has spent much time in the care and arrangement of the William S. Vaux Collection of minerals.

By the liberality of Rev. Dr. Leander T. Chamberlain, the Isaac Lea Collection of Eocene and Oligocene fossils has been extended by a large series from the Chipola (Florida) bed, collected by Mr. C. W. Johnson; a fine series from the Ballast Point Silex beds, and less important collections from other American localities. Substantial additions have also been made to the series from the Oligocene and Eocene of Europe. In all, fifteen hundred and thirty-two trays of fossils have been added to the collection during the year, the total number of accessions catalogued now reaching sixty-six hundred and eighty-two entries, with some material still to be determined. Two new cases have been provided for the accommodation of this material. The continued interest of Dr. Chamberlain in this department of the Museum is a cause of congratulation, as it secures important advancement of American invertebrate paleontology.

The Curators, considering the duplication of collections undesirable, have transferred certain Eocene and Oligocene fossils of Jamaica and Santo Domingo and of the London and Paris basins to the Isaac Lea Collection, wherein they can be arranged and displayed.

In other departments we would acknowledge the continued assistance of Dr. Henry A. Pilsbry of the Conchological Section, Dr. Henry Skinner, Dr. Philip P. Calvert and Mr. Charles Liebeck of the Entomological Section, and Messrs. Lewis Woolman and Theodore D. Rand of the Geological Section; also the efficient aid received from the students of the Jessup Fund, Miss Harriet N. Wardle and Messrs. Fowler, Hamilton, Vanatta, Satterthwait and Rehn.

Several of the collections have benefited from critical study by specialists during the year, notably the North American Ophidia, studied by Mr. Arthur Erwin Brown, the Cetacean skeletons by Dr. F. W. True, and the Mosses by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton. The additions to the Museum have been many; among the most important being the Lamborn Collection of Mexican Antiquities, the Charles E. Smith Herbarium, the numerous valuable specimens received from the Zoölogical Society of Philadelphia, and the Japanese Mollusca received from Mr. Y. Hirase, of Kyoto, Japan. Of particular interest also is a life-size portrait of Linnæus, copied from the original in Holland especially for the Academy and presented by the late Charles E. Smith early in the year; some heads of Indian Buffaloes, collected and deposited by Dr. A. Donaldson Smith, and a beautiful exhibition case of Lepidoptera, the gift of Mr. Charles H. Hutchinson.

Specimens have been loaned for study during the year to Mrs. E. G. Britton, Messrs. C. R. Ball, W. B. Clarke, F. M. Chapman, F. R. Coville, W. H. Dall, M. J. Elrod, C. R. Eastman, George H. Girty, A. H. Howell, Alpheus Hyatt, W. P. Hay, R. T. Jackson, G. S. Miller, E. L. Morris, P. Ryberg, Robert Ridgway and J. K. Small.

HENRY C. CHAPMAN,

Chairman.